



DROOP MOUNTAIN BATTLE GROUND
YANKEE FLATS

SKIRMISH LINES

To Hillsboro 5 Miles
 To Hillsboro
 Lobelia Road
 Hillsboro

FIELD HOSPITAL

ROAD No. 22
 AND MILES
 Mill Fork

BURNSIDE

ONE O'CLOCK

12:45 P.M.
 10th W.V.
 FIRST FORMATION

12:45 P.M.
 28th OHIO
 FIRST FORMATION

270 Poles
 Road from Property Line - 1/2 M.



EDGARS CAMP

Locust

JACOB MCCARTHY
 MAJ. FLESSING
 23RD VA BATTALION

COL. COCHRAN
 20th VA Cavalry

COL. ARNETT
 20th VA Cavalry

Wm. L. JACKSON BRIGADE

23rd VA Cavalry

24th VA Cavalry

25th VA Cavalry

26th VA Cavalry

27th VA Cavalry

28th VA Cavalry

29th VA Cavalry

30th VA Cavalry

31st VA Cavalry

32nd VA Cavalry

33rd VA Cavalry

34th VA Cavalry

35th VA Cavalry

36th VA Cavalry

37th VA Cavalry

38th VA Cavalry

39th VA Cavalry

40th VA Cavalry

41st VA Cavalry

42nd VA Cavalry

43rd VA Cavalry

44th VA Cavalry

45th VA Cavalry

46th VA Cavalry

47th VA Cavalry

48th VA Cavalry

49th VA Cavalry

50th VA Cavalry

51st VA Cavalry

52nd VA Cavalry

53rd VA Cavalry

54th VA Cavalry

55th VA Cavalry

56th VA Cavalry

57th VA Cavalry

58th VA Cavalry

59th VA Cavalry

60th VA Cavalry

61st VA Cavalry

62nd VA Cavalry

63rd VA Cavalry

64th VA Cavalry

65th VA Cavalry

66th VA Cavalry

67th VA Cavalry

68th VA Cavalry

69th VA Cavalry

70th VA Cavalry

71st VA Cavalry

72nd VA Cavalry

73rd VA Cavalry

74th VA Cavalry

75th VA Cavalry

76th VA Cavalry

77th VA Cavalry

78th VA Cavalry

79th VA Cavalry

80th VA Cavalry

81st VA Cavalry

82nd VA Cavalry

83rd VA Cavalry

84th VA Cavalry

85th VA Cavalry

86th VA Cavalry

87th VA Cavalry

88th VA Cavalry

89th VA Cavalry

90th VA Cavalry

91st VA Cavalry

92nd VA Cavalry

93rd VA Cavalry

94th VA Cavalry

95th VA Cavalry

96th VA Cavalry

97th VA Cavalry

98th VA Cavalry

99th VA Cavalry

100th VA Cavalry

camped for the night. On the morning of the 6th, General Averell threw out a strong skirmish line that cleared his front to the foot of the Mountain. About 9 A. M. the 10th W. Va. Inft., 28th Ohio Inft. and one company of the 14th Pa. Cav. and two pieces of Ewing's Battery were sent around on a back road $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles where they formed, and struck the enemy in force. Here is where the principal and hardest part of the battle was fought, and in passing over one small plot of cleared land, not comprising more than one acre, thirteen were killed and forty-seven were wounded. Some of those wounded died later, so if in this battlefield covering nearly two thousand acres of land and fought on by seven thousand determined soldiers, what would the casualty list have been if the land had been cleared. According to numbers, it might have been a second Lookout Mountain, a Fredericksburg, or a battle of great slaughter. Providence was kind, whilst the Mountain State was baptized in blood. Averell then formed the 2nd, 3rd and 8th W. Va. Mounted Infantry, with a portion of the 14th Pa. Cavalry in line of battle, who succeeded in driving the Confederate forces, composed of the 22nd Va. Inft. and 19th Va. Cav. and other units up the mountain, near the summit. While further on the left of the Confederate line we find a portion of Colonel Averell's regiment, 20th Va., Colonel.....commanding, Kesler's Battalion, 23rd Va., Major Blessing; four companies Derrick's battalion, a portion of the 22nd Va. Inft. Some of these units have been twice named because, as the fighting became more severe on the Confederate left, they weakened their right by sending reinforcements to strengthen their left. I give it as my opinion, knowing the spirit of the men who fought that battle, that if the army had not been protected by a dense forest that fifty per cent of the men engaged would have been slaughtered.

The forces engaged in the Battle were composed of twelve Confederate units, regiments, battalions and independent companies.

While the Union forces were composed of nine units, regiments and battalions, there was but a slight difference in the numbers composing the two armies, the 10th West Virginia infantry and the 23rd Ohio that comprised the flanking party and did the principle fighting was officially reported as 1175 soldiers while the 22nd Virginia Infantry, Confederate, was reported officially at 550 soldiers strong and the 23rd Virginia Battalion 350 strong. Captain Marshall with 125 dismounted cavalry, Captain Derring's battalion 200, and Major Kesler's battalion and other units composed a very

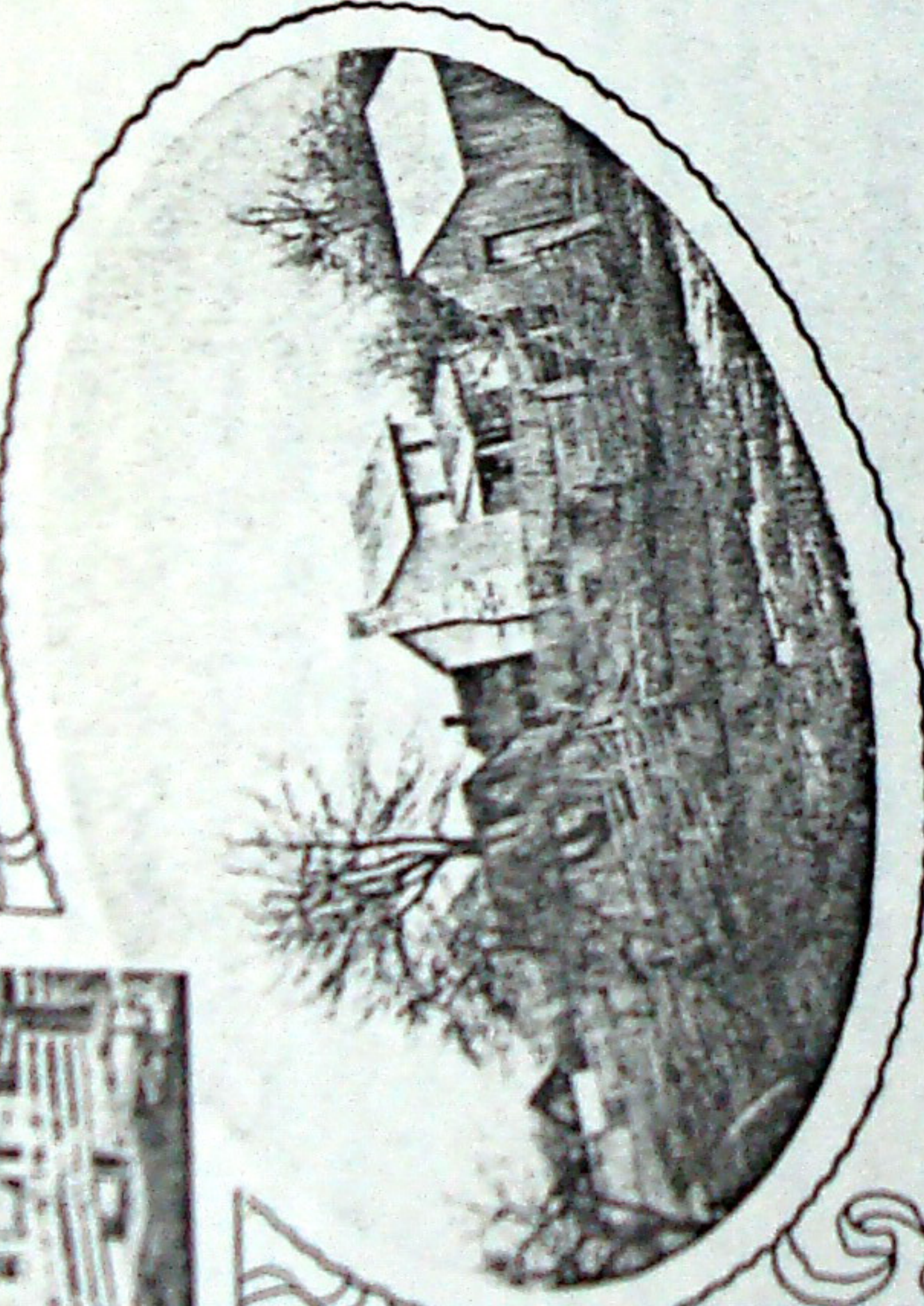
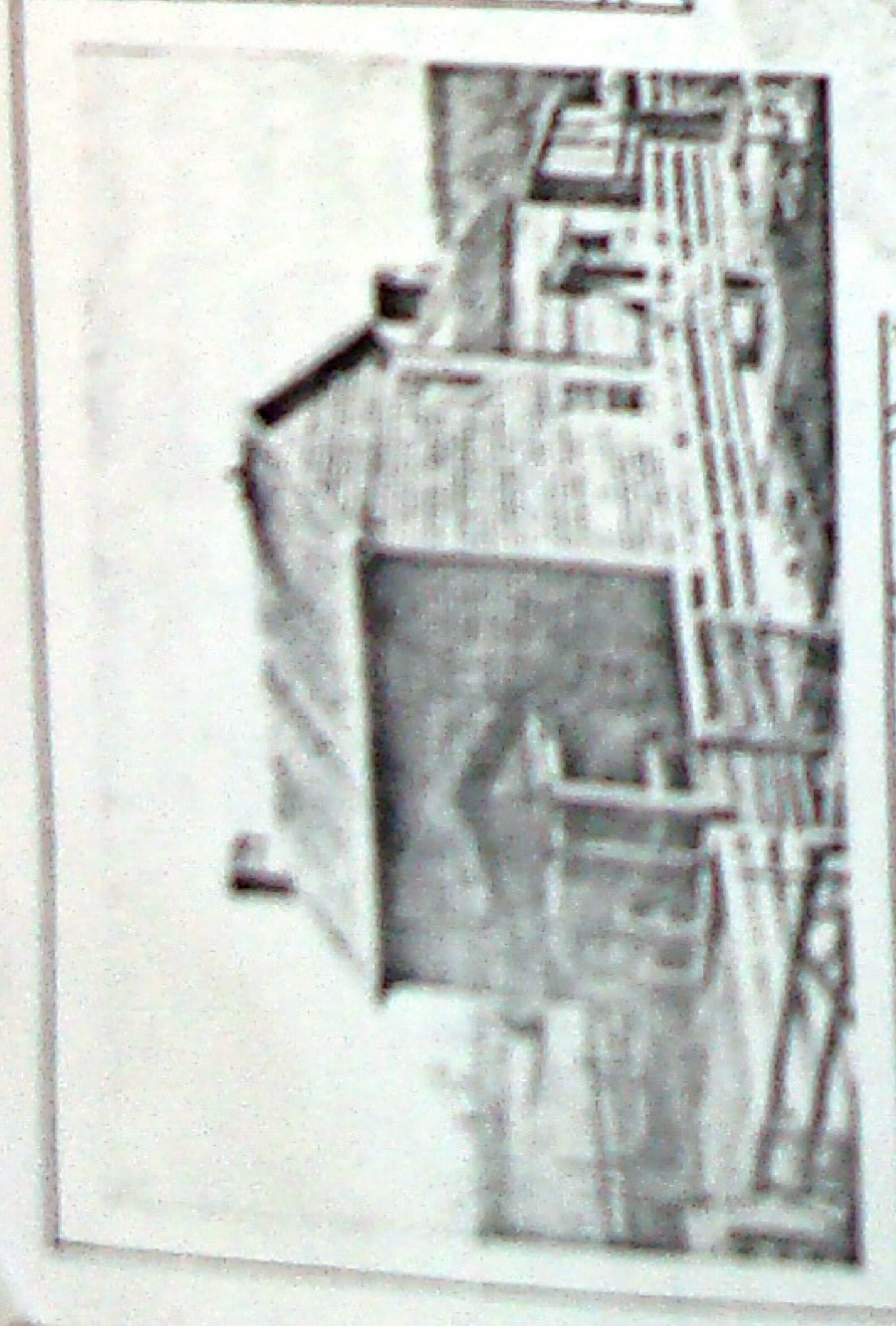
elegant fighting force. These units were concentrated on the Confederate left and fought the 10th and 28th. So it was a battle royal by seasoned troops of approximately equal numbers.

What turned the tide of battle was the neglect of the Confederate general to fortify his position and protect his flank. Averell, an officer of superior ability, took advantage of the situation and turned the flank of the enemy with his infantry and gave them such a slight margin for their escape which caused much confusion.

All that saved the Confederates from being cut off was the lake that protected their left flank. If Generals Jackson and Echols had fortified the back road over which the flanking units marched and protected their lines by falling timber and temporary breast works on the mountain side, which they had abundant time to do, their position would have been impregnable. The mere height of a mountain is of but slight advantage to those defending it, if they are not protected by breast works. When the 10th West Virginia Infantry succeeded in gaining a position on the left of the Confederate line, the Confederate commander seeing their peril and danger of being cut off, ordered a retreat. The roads being blocked by cavalry, artillery and wagon trains caused much confusion. The Union victory was not the result of a lack of number on the Confederate side, nor to the gallantry of her soldiers, but a lack on the part of their commanders to comprehend the situation and take advantage of their position.

Now we come to another phase of the history of Droop Mountain. We reason from analogy and from prehistoric evidence, that Droop Mountain has been a battlefield of some prehistoric race, or by the early Indian tribes of America. We read from journals of Capt. Wm. Trent, who says that the Shawnees were the most remarkable of all the people inhabiting the region east of the Mississippi. In 1682 they fell under the rule of the Six Nations and for half a century they existed in various branches. The Miamis were a powerful nation. It is said they were the only Indians that ever waged a successful war with the Six Nations. The Delaware Nation consisted of five tribal organizations. They were driven by the Six Nations from the Delaware river to the Susquehanna, then to the Monongahela. Kercheval says that the Catawba and Delaware Indians were said to have been engaged in war when the valley of Virginia was first discovered. Several bloody battles were fought between those tribes on the Potomac. Other battles occurred on South Branch in Hampshire County, and near Franklin, Pendleton County, according to

TEMPORARY HOSPITAL, NOW SPACE POSTOFFICE. BAXTER DIED HERE, NOV. 7, 1863.



HOUSE IN WHICH MAJOR BAILEY DIED, NOV. 7, 1863.

TREE UNDER WHICH GEN. ROBT. E. LEE SLEPT, NIGHT OF SEPT. 15, 1861, NEAR DROOP MOUNTAIN.



AVERELL'S HOSPITAL—BEARD'S RESIDENCE AT HILLSBORO.

Scenes from Droop Mountain Battlefield

141

...ed
...ay
...the
...de-
...tive
...late
...Appl.
...I do
...sfully
...derate
...murder
...P. Mc
...in r
...boy
...Sor
...Appl th
...re wa
...s ton
...w of th
...d word
...at it v
...good
...e leng

tradition, a battle occurred between the Indians on Cow Pasture River near Millborough in Bath county. We see that near and on every side of Droop Mountain Indian battles occurred, and there is every reason to believe that possibly many battles were fought on the Droop. It was not only a fortress, but a supply of war material rich and inexhaustible.

I am impressed with the thought that in the ages long gone by that some of the western or southern tribes of North America had one of their strong defensive outposts on the Droop Mountain.

There are unmistakable evidences of it in the rich valley at the foot of the mountain where in the rich, level land supplies were abundant and where their warriors could be assembled to a naturally fortified position in the plains at the foot of the Droop Mountain excavations, where thousands of tons of rough flints have been removed.

And on the top of the mountain in a field by the edge of the lake the ground is covered with spears and arrowheads, a field where the natives have gathered thousands of the Indian handiwork and the chips and spalls to this day cover the ground.

This must have been a great military camping ground for the warriors of the forest by the side of a lake where the waters flow up cold and sparkling. I imagine in this ancient lake there were countless millions of trout from which these warriors feasted and from the valleys and rivers. And rich hunting ground. Supplies were abundant to feed the warriors, whose duty it was to protect the rich hunting grounds. And this the metropolis of the assembled tribes it is known that in the ages of the past different tribes, fierce and warlike, fought with desperation and relentless fury over the possession of favored territory. For time unknown the tribes of the north and those of the south were at enmity.

Droop Mountain was doubtless one of the strongest strategic position on the spurs of the Allegheny mountains. Droop Mountain points with unmistakable evidence to the metropolis of some powerful and war-like nation and we doubt not that the very ground over which the soldiers of the sixties fought with such courage and daring was one made red with the blood of the savage, a war-like people long since extinct.

The evidence they left is crude but distinct. Let us in the name of a history-loving people, living in the pride of a great age, mark this historic battlefield, dedicated to the freedom of West Virginia, with monuments of granite embellished in art that will forever commemorate the imperishable memory and heroism of the sons of our beloved State.

o
y
te
er
Mc-
re-
on
some
they
was a
ongue
them
rd was a
d look
ngth of